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COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATIONS AND DISARMAMENT OBLIGATIONS

Letter dated 1 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador containing the text of the statement issued by the Government of Ecuador on the nuclear test conducted by China at Lop Nor on 15 May 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 57 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

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Annex

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN CHINA

Ecuador condemns the latest nuclear detonation by the Government of China, carried out at the Lop Nor testing ground in the province of Xinjiang on 15 May 1995. This act runs counter to the goal of nuclear non-proliferation and to the resolution adopted by consensus at the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which urges the Conference on Disarmament to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty.

Ecuador unconditionally supports the international regime established in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which will now remain in force indefinitely, as decided by the Parties to the Conference held in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995. That regime must be buttressed by other international instruments that will contribute to general and complete disarmament and, consequently, to world peace and security.

Accordingly, Ecuador supports the negotiations being held by the Conference on Disarmament on the text of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty for submission to the General Assembly, since such tests result in all kinds of damage to the environment and to human health, in addition to being the first step towards vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons.

It is Ecuador's hope that, until such an international instrument is adopted, all States will refrain from conducting nuclear tests.

Consequently, it welcomes the initiative of some nuclear-weapon States that have unilaterally imposed a moratorium on their own nuclear tests, thereby demonstrating their good will with regard to the negotiations under way in the Conference on Disarmament.